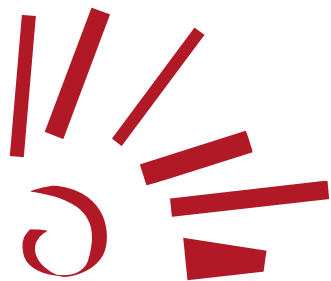


The William A. Douglass

Center for Basque Studies

NEWSLETTER

SPRING
2019

NUMBER 85

CBS Mission and History

The Center for Basque Studies' mission is to further Basque-related study by conducting, facilitating, and disseminating original Basque-related research in the humanities and social sciences, in cooperation with appropriate academic departments at UNR, as well as at other American and foreign universities, by the creation of undergraduate and graduate curricula at the University of Nevada, Reno (including the creation of distance education courses) and by collaboration with the University Studies Abroad Consortium to provide a quality educational experience for students desirous of studying and living in the Basque Country of Europe.

In 1967 a small Basque Studies program was established within the social sciences division of the Desert Research Institute. Originally established to study the Basques as an integral part of the sheep industry that had so influenced the development of the Intermountain West, over time (and since incorporated officially into the University of Nevada, Reno), the Center for Basque Studies has become the leading research and educational institute of its kind outside the European Basque homeland.



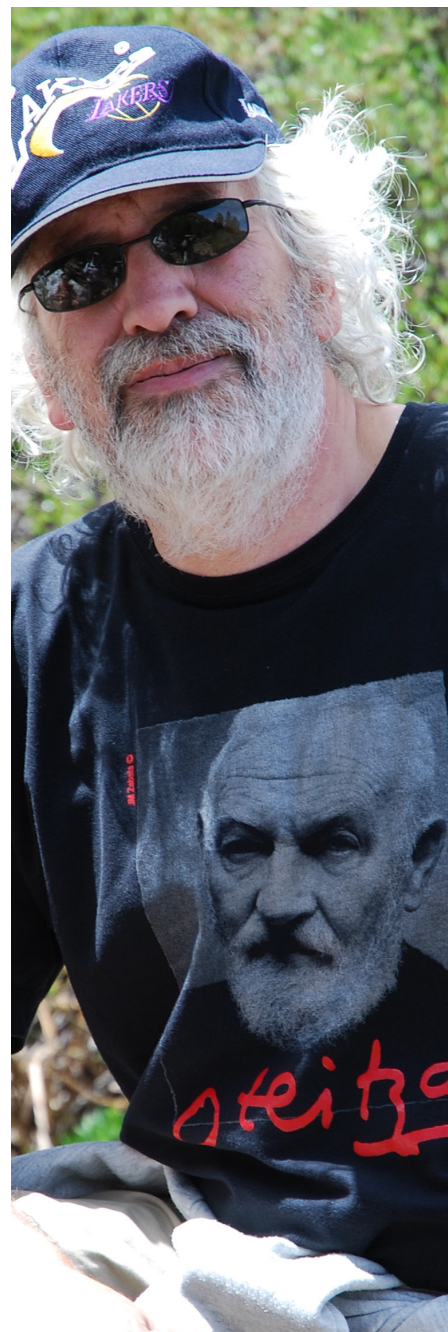
An annual publication of the
Center for Basque Studies
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-2322

Zorionak, Joseba!

Joseba Zulaika and I met thirty-six years ago in Donosti. In 1983, he had just joined the faculty at the University of the Basque Country. I had recently become the director of USAC's first study abroad program in Donosti. Kate Camino was among that first cohort of pioneering USAC students. Little did any of us know that our professional paths would eventually find us all in Reno as colleagues at the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies.

Joseba joined the UNR faculty in 1990, twenty-three years after Bill Douglass became the first coordinator of the Basque Studies Program. When Bill retired in December 1999, Joseba became the Center's first Director. He has played an integral role in the transformation of the Center, now often described by UNR President Marc Johnson as "a jewel in the crown." During Joseba's directorship (2000-2005) the number of faculty doubled, in large part owing to the support of Bill Raggio, Joe Crowley, and Bill Douglass and to skillful lobbying by our longstanding Advisory Board member, Pete Ernaut. Joseba was also closely involved in the creation of that Advisory Board, in response to friendly pressure from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Bob Mead. The Advisory Board held its first meeting in January 2001, with John Echeverria as its first Chair and Bill Douglass as its Vice-Chair.

As Director of the Center, Joseba also recognized the need to secure support from Basque public institutions. Our Advisory Board and its leadership under John and Bill helped us obtain financial support from the Basque Government and the Diputación de Bizkaia. Joseba's efforts, as well as Bill's, resulted in a \$60,000 grant





The Falxa family sheep wagon from the Buffalo Basque festival. The first Basque child born in Wyoming!

Buy Basque Books

And help support the work we do at the Center for Basque Studies

Call or visit
basquebooks.mysshopify.com

The Center for Basque Studies Newsletter is published by:

Center for Basque Studies / 2322
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-2322

e-mail us at: basque@unr.edu
phone: 775.784.4854
fax: 775.784.1355

Please visit our web site at:
www.basque.unr.edu

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action, ADA institution. 11/2011, 7,900.

from the Basque Government and an annual agreement to support the Center's development of online courses, publications and conferences. That ongoing support by the Basque Government and other Basque institutions has proved fundamental to the Center's record of excellence. Joseba's close involvement with the developing CBS Press began with textbooks for online courses and expanded into various distinguished series, such as the Classics Series, the Basque Literature and the Basque Diaspora Series. Joseba also played an instrumental role in developing the Basque Library as an integral component in our collective mission to generate and disseminate knowledge about the Basques.

During his long and distinguished career, Joseba has received several awards and prizes, most notably among them the coveted Euskadi Prize for his outstanding memoir, *That Old Bilbao Moon*. The memoir is an "ethnography of desire, an essay tracking a generation's consciousness." Its opening paragraph gives the reader a fla-

vor of the amazing journey ahead: "It was the spring of 1999 and a Carnival Monday morning when I returned for a visit to San Felicesimo ("Saint Happiest")—the Bilbao monastery where in the 1960s, as a teenager and for almost a decade, I tried hard to become a saint, but was finally expelled, an atheist and suicidal (That Old Bilbao Moon, 2014, p. 9)."

Joseba has long tackled daunting topics in his research and writing. Internationally known for his works on terrorism, Joseba will crown his academic career later this year with the publication of his riveting (and admittedly disquieting), forthcoming book, *Killing from Las Vegas: Drone warfare and the American Dream* (under contract with the University of California Press).

Joseba, we all wish you every happiness and continuing success in your retirement in July. Thank you so much for everything you have done for the Center.

Sandy Ott
Professor of Basque Studies

Female Improvisational Poets

In December 2009, 14,500 people met at the Bilbao Exhibition Centre in the Basque Country to attend an improvised poetry contest. Forty-four poets took part in the 2009 literary tournament, and eight of them made it to the final. After a long day of literary competition, Maialen Lujanbio won and received the award: a big black txapela or Basque beret. That day the Basques achieved a triple triumph. First, thousands of people had gathered for an entire day to follow a literary contest, and many more had attended the event via the web all over the world. Second, all these people had followed this event entirely in Basque, a language that had been prohibited for decades during the harsh years of the Francoist dictatorship. And third, Lujanbio had become the first woman to win the championship in the history of the Basques. After being crowned with the txapela, Lujanbio stepped up to the microphone and sang a bertso or improvised poem referring to the struggle of the Basques for their language and the struggle of Basque women for their rights. It was

a unique moment in the history of an ancient nation that counts its past in tens of millennia: "I remember the laundry that grandmothers of earlier times carried on the cushion [on their heads], I remember the grandmothers of old times and today's mothers and daughters. . . ."



Ulysses Syndrome International Symposium



The CBS is going to host an international symposium on the Ulysses

Syndrome at the University of the Basque Country in Donostia. The symposium will take an interdisciplinary approach to a psychological and psychosocial analysis of Basque migrants. This analysis will be carried out both from the perspective of the people who left the Basque Country, the emigrants, and from the perspective of the people who have settled in the Basque Country, the immigrants.

In the symposium, topics such as identity, radicalization, psychological difficulties and mental disorders will be addressed from the perspective of migration and mental health, with special reference to the

people who came to the Basque Country and lived in very difficult situations. They suffered from the chronic episodes of stress that come from migration, also known as the Ulysses Syndrome.

Migratory phenomena are of great importance in Basque society, given that it has experienced one of the largest movements of emigrant and immigrant populations simultaneously. There have been stages in Basque history in which half of the population left the Basque Country as emigrants, while simultaneously an equivalent number of immigrants settled there. These great migratory movements have an enormous social and psychosocial impact, which is the focus of this symposium.

Kerri Lesh's Summer Abroad Course

Kerri Lesh plans to defend her dissertation on May 1st of this semester and will jump right into teaching for the University of Nevada, Reno. She will be offering two classes in the first and second summer sessions. The first is titled "Consuming Identities: Food and Drink as Cultural Heritage" (June 10th-July 12th); the second is a study abroad course titled "Basque Language, Food, and Culture" (July 15th-July 29th) which will take place in the Basque Country. The first course will be interdisciplinary and will focus on European cu-

linary practices, food, drink, and concepts of authenticity and terroir. Kerri's second session class will focus on Basque culinary practices in relation to the use of the Basque language. The material covered in this class will offer a linguistic, historical, social, economic, and political view of traditional and modern Basque Culture. The course draws upon cultural and linguistic anthropology, history, food studies, political science, and film to augment student learning about food and culture in the Basque Country, and in comparison to other minoritized cultures. For any questions related to her classes, please contact Kerri at kerri.lesh@gmail.com. She is excited to share her love of the Basque language and gastronomy with anyone interested in learning more!

Interview with Michelle Petite: Winner of 2018 Basque Literary Contest



The Center for Basque Studies is pleased to announce that the winner of our 2018 Basque Literary Contest is Michelle Petite, with her story *Etxe Roxenia*!

CBS Graduate Student Callie Greenhaw interviewed Michelle to find out more about her and her work.

Please tell us about yourself.

I was born in the French Hospital in Los Angeles and grew up feeling I was French Basque as much as I was American. I visited the Pays Basque with my Amatxi for the first time when I was thirteen and felt the pull of the culture and people. Retirement from my job as an educator two years ago has given me the time and opportunity to explore my cultural legacy and to begin writing Amatxi's stories. I live in Southern California and am married with two grown children.

What is *Etxe Roxenia* about?

Etxe Roxenia tells the true story of Arroxa Caminoa Bidegain, a young Basque girl born in 1864. She grew up in the enclave of Bosate, Spain; her Aita was the town miller. A serious childhood injury

(continued on page 4)

set Arroxa's life on an unexpected path, one that would require *espíritu indarra*, strength of heart and spirit. Arroxa was my great-grandmother. The story is written from my memories of the events as told by my Amatxi Lina, as well as notes kept by my mother, Renée. I also researched Basque culture and history, then tried to envision how each scene might have unfolded.

What was the inspiration for your work?

My Amatxi, Lina Bidegain Tauzin, was Basque. She grew up in Urepel, a small village in the Pyrenees mountains in France. She was a story teller. From her favorite spot on the corner of the couch, she shared with her eight grandchildren a lifetime of tales; crossing the Pyrenees on foot at age four, growing up in the village, traveling alone by ship to America at age nineteen. As a child, she was poor in possessions, but rich in family and love, and had a sense of adventure. Her grandchildren loved her stories. Now I am attempting to capture on paper her indomitable spirit, the beauty of her Basque heritage, the changing world that shaped her life.

Please tell us about your other projects.

I have always loved to write. Etxe Roxenia is my first complete narrative story, but I continue to write about Lina's life. I recently traveled to Montana with my sisters and cousins. We met the family of John Etchart from Aldudes and visited their Stone House Ranch where Lina immigrated to work as a cook for Basque sheepherders in 1916. This is another wonderful chapter of her life, filled with Basque people and experiences.

In order to record Lin's stories for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, we created an online blog called The Lina Project, and invited the family to share. It includes Lina's Legacy pages with information about the Basque culture and historical context, along with Amatxi's Story pages, short drafts of my memories of her storytelling. My sisters, Kathleen and Tonya, have contributed their own memories to the blog. I am chronicling my experiences on a blog: <https://the-lina-project.tumblr.com/>

Is there anything else you want our readers to know?

Writing my Amatxi's stories has become a journey of discovery. The more I learn about the Basque culture and people, the more I want to know. Along the way I have met so many interesting and gracious people; they share their own stories and support my aspirations. It has been a wonderful, inspiring experience and has deepened my connection to my Basque heritage

Zorionak, Michelle! Keep a look out in the Center for Basque Studies Bookstore for Etxe Roxenia, coming in May 2019.

Romtvedt Father and Daughter Basque Presentations

On March 11, 12, 13, 2019, father and daughter David Romtvedt and Caitlin Belem Romtvedt will give a series of presentations of Basque music and history at the University of Nevada at Reno's Center for Basque Studies. Earlier in March, they will give similar presentations in Utah,

Nevada, and California. David, who was raised in Arizona, married into a Basque family and is an Euskaldun berria—a non-Basque person who by learning Euskara—the Basque language—is said to be Basque. Caitlin grew up in Buffalo's Basque community where she learned traditional music and, later, the dances for which the music is played.

The presentations, sponsored by the University of Nevada at Reno's Center for Basque Studies, will include readings from two of David's books—*Zelestina Urza in Outer Space* and *Buffalotarrak: An Anthology of the Basques of Buffalo, Wyoming*. *Zelestina Urza in Outer Space* is a novel centered on the lives of two women living in the fictional town of Wolf, Wyoming—sixteen-year-old Zelestina Urza, from the village of Arnegi in the northern Basque Country who arrives alone in Wolf in the winter of 1902, and Yellow Bird Daughter, a half Northern Cheyenne, half Northern Arapaho girl orphaned when her parents die in a late winter blizzard. Each woman has been uprooted from a culture that is thousands of years old and each must build a new life. *Buffalotarrak* is a nonfiction work featuring personal stories from several of the early Basque immigrants to the Buffalo area. Along with the readings and discussions, David and Caitlin will perform





traditional Basque music of Buffalo and the Intermountain West. This includes songs from Buffalo's Zaharrer Segi dance ensemble such as "Axuri Beltza" and "Domingo da Domeka," non-dance songs such as "He-goak," and "Maiteak Galde Egin Zautan," newly composed songs in non-Basque styles— Romtvedt Father and Daughter Basque Presentations, p. 2 cumbias, polkas, waltzes—with lyrics in Euskara, and songs such as the Argentine waltz



"Alfonsina y el Mar" that have come to have symbolic meaning for many Basque people. Following an earlier series of presentations in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado, David and Caitlin will visit Salt Lake City, Utah; Elko, Winnemucca,

and Reno, Nevada; and Fresno and San Francisco, California. While the programs are jointly sponsored by the University of Nevada's Center for Basque Studies and local Basque organizations, all are free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact the Center for Basque Studies by telephone at 775-784-4854 or by email at basque@unr.edu.

Bill Douglass Honored at the University of Chicago

I have been asked to write about a ceremony that I recently attended at the University of Chicago's University Club. Since it was easily the most memorable evening in my entire professional career, I will use the first person tense rather than third.

It was in about June of last summer that I was informed in a telephone call from the vice president of the University of Chicago's Alumni Association that my alma mater was bestowing upon me its highest award—the Distinguished Career Medal. It is given only periodically and its recipients include such luminaries as the theologian Martin Marty and the economists Paul Samuelson and Gary Becker. The ceremony was scheduled for November 9. I was abashed by the news and sputtered in response that I was planning to be in Australia then conducting research for my book on Basques in the Antipodes. Lee Kirschbaum replied that they certainly did not want to interfere with my research by giving me an award for my research, but my attendance at the ceremony was mandatory. They could postpone my presence until the following year. In the event, I had second thoughts. Given my age (79) and bad heart, I decided that I had better attend the November 9 event—so I changed my Australian plans.

It was on a snowy and blustery evening that I rode the elevator to the top floor of the University Club in downtown Chicago, unsure of what to expect. There must have been 150 people milling about nurs-

ing drinks and nibbling on hors d'oeuvres in anticipation of the awards' ceremony. I was welcomed by Tasneem Khokha, the president of the Alumni Association, who reiterated that there would be five awards before mine. I was the final recipient and the only one expected to speak (I had been asked to prepare formal remarks in advance).



It was then that I had the astounding experience of listening to the accomplishments of the others who preceded me. They included Yuval Levin, founder and editor of National Affairs and contributing editor to National Review journals and Sarah Koenig, the host and executive producer of Serial, the most widely viewed podcast ever. She was selected by Time magazine as among the one hundred most influential people in the world. Still, the really memorable moment for me was listening to a young physician, Samer Attar, who works for Doctors Without Borders. He was the last volunteer physician to leave Aleppo and had just testified to the United Nations about what he had seen during the Russian and Syrian bombing of the city.

It was a very humbled Bill Douglass that ascended to the stage after such stalwarts, not to mention to join the select company of my predecessors who have received the Distinguished Career Medal.

A Note from Frank Bergon



I was asked to write a few words “inviting people” to attend the forthcoming conference about my work, which at first felt like an awkward situation similar to a person sending out invitations to a party that others were planning for him. “It was just an idea,” I was told. Now with a twist of that idea I’m happy to invite everyone to join me in hearing a marvelous array of scholars and writers as they reflect on themes that extend beyond my work to interests on both sides of the Atlantic about the literature and history of Basques, Native Americans, the environment, ethnicity, and other concerns of the American West. I’m therefore writing a note of welcome to all, who, like me, will be in the audience, and a note of thanks to those who graciously are arranging and participating in this wonderful event.

To Basque generosity I give the credit for this conference. A phone call from the Basque writer and scholar Joseba Zulaika led to my giving a talk at the Center for Basque Studies, which in turn led to the Basque Librarian Iñaki Arrieta, with the strong support of Dean Kathlin Ray, advocating the placement of my papers in the library archives, beginning with thirty-six boxes of research materials. The Director of the Center for Basque Studies, Xabier Irujo, along with Iñaki, then organized this conference into an international event. They promptly invited from the Basque Country the scholars, David Rio and Monika Madinabeitia, who over the years in their writings and conferences have been the most active interpreters and support-

ers of my work in relation to Basques in the West. With the five scholars I’ve just mentioned, all born in the Basque Country, the Basque American Edurne Arostegui will join them in bringing to the conference her perspective with the Basque enthusiasm and good humor they all share, reflected in her email to me, saying, “I’m having a blast looking through some of the boxes that are being catalogued from your collection.”

Five other speakers from American colleges and universities, who have produced dazzling work of their own in scholarship and fiction, will also participate in the conference. From William Heath, Sylvan Goldberg, Nancy Cook, Zeese Papanikolas, and David Means, I look forward to learning about such topics as how fiction differs from history, how history affects us personally, what makes a hero in our time, the role of violence in history and literature, what Western voices are missing from today’s literature, how we relate to the natural world, what it means to live in a post-truth world, what it means to be an ethnic American, how the Old West lives on in the New West, how we’ve ignored social-class differences in rural America, and how we can live spiritual and socially active lives in a world gone wacko.

The first evening of the conference will conclude with Monika Madinabeitia presenting a new book that she and two other women in the Basque Country, Maitane Puebla and Yera Sanchez, wrote and illustrated about my Basque grandmother,

Petra Mendive Amoroto Egaña. Music and dance will accompany the celebration of this immigrant woman and others like her who left their homeland to make a new life in America. Petra’s great-granddaughter Holland Wines has arranged for up to fifteen of Petra’s great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren to perform a Basque table dance. They will then be joined by Zazpiak Bat Dancers from the Reno Basque Club for a jota.

On the second evening of the conference I’ve been asked to talk about and read from my new book, *Two-Buck Chuck & The Marlboro Man: The New Old West*, to be published the previous week by the University of Nevada Press. This book presents personal portraits of rural and small-town Westerners in California’s San Joaquin Valley, where both the Béarnais and Basque sides of my family lived side by side as they still do in Europe. I will tell for the first time in public how my old high school buddy managed to create the best-selling wine in history and how my friend from earlier ranch days became the main Marlboro Man for more than thirty years.

The ranch country where I grew up was often rough and violent, but it was ruled by a moral code of reciprocity. If someone gave you something, you gave back. If someone did you a favor, you returned it. This primal code of behavior broke down when a gift was of such generosity—as this conference is for me—and reciprocation failed. There was one response I learned I could offer, as I do now: my gratitude.

Larraitz Ariznabarreta Garabieta

Tell us a little about your personal background, Larraitz:

I was born and raised in the Basque Country in a very culturally and politically engaged family: my own commitment to Basque culture is probably a family legacy. In other words, identity and identification come hand in hand in my case: I do Basque Studies because this is what I am, and I am privileged to make a living out of my passion. Likewise, it is probably the fact that I belong to a minoritized culture that has granted me an acute sense of the importance of other cultures and minority groups.

On another strand, my field of academic expertise deals with Basque Cultural Studies, Gender and Migration. My research has been tied to discourse analysis as a methodology and subaltern and diversity studies as general frameworks. These have been the axes around which my teaching, service and research have spun in the last 25 years.

Tell us about your research background:

My doctoral dissertation, "Martin Ugalde: Cartografías de un discurso" (cf. Martin Ugalde: Cartographies of a Discourse), dealt with the discursive analysis of the Basque expatriate writer Martin Ugalde throughout his long exile years in Venezuela during General Franco's regime. I was fortunate to count the Basque writer as a close friend, and my long conversations with him contributed greatly to my work and research. I had part of my thesis published in 2015 by Ekin (Buenos Aires) in the collection "Biblioteca de Estudios Vascos".

My work has resonances for and links to Anglophone cultural studies and illuminates the nexus of nationalism, identity, cultural resistance, and diversity. In

the last two years I have contributed to the books: *El Exilio Vasco* (Deusto, 2016), *Espacios de la heterodoxia del exilio* (Hamaikabide, 2017), *Trump, amesgaizto amerikarra* (Elkar, 2017) in *El mundo está en todas partes: El universo literario de Bernardo Atxaga* (Anthropos, 2018), *National Identities at the Intersection: literature and visual media in the Iberian Peninsula* (Francis Boutle, 2018), and *Female Improvisational Poets in the 20th century* (CBS Press, 2019).



What made you opt for a position at the Center?

Working for the CBS was always an inspiration to me. Funny how I remember being an exchange student in an American high school in the eighties and dreaming about becoming a Basque Studies scholar at UNR. I have devoted my whole academic

life to the dissemination of Basque culture through research, service and courses I have taught. This position was a natural step forward to continue my academic endeavors. The position will grant me the time to undertake meaningful research and continue my passion and determination towards making Basque culture visible internationally.

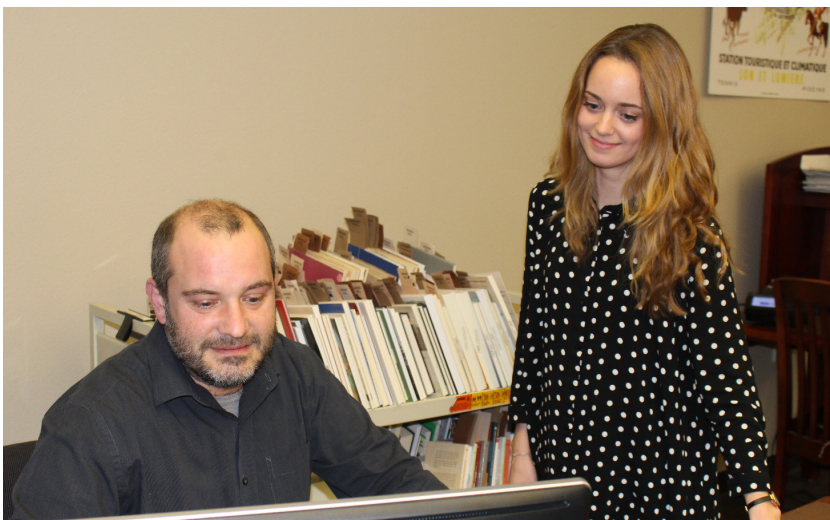
What do you bring to the CBS?

I bring my experience as a researcher and my know-how as a professor and administrator. Similarly, I bring an insider's view as regards contemporary Basque society and culture. I have worked for the three major higher education institutions in the Basque Country and, as a result, I belong to several research groups, scientific and international advisory boards and committees. Similarly, I am in close contact with numerous Basque culture practitioners whom I consider allies. I am positive these networks and synergies will continue to benefit my research at the Center and help me to establish new academic liaisons. I also bring the experience I gained as a lecturer in Boise State University (2016-2018) where I taught an array of courses about Basque Culture and Society.

What are you working on?

I am now trying to make the best of the time I have in the Basque Country before I join UNR in the summer. On top of teaching my regular classes at the University, I am conducting archival work and interviews for my next research project. I am co-editing a book based upon the conference "Memory and Emotion: Women's Studies," that I organized at Boise State last year. I am also proofreading the manuscript of my first monograph in English. *Deconstructing Basque Culture* will be out in the spring, published by a prestigious South American editorial house. To add to that, I am busy organizing an international conference for the fall about the history of ikastolas (Basque schools) during Francoism. I am busy, but as the Basque saying goes: "Lice do not bite busy (wo)men".





Anne-Marie Chimberro Wins Third in Basque Literary Contest

Anne-Marie Chiramberro, a Basque American from the San Francisco Bay Area and author of the blog Hella Basque, has won third prize in the 2018 Basque Literary Contest for her manuscript “Wannabe Basque”, which is a collection of essays that explores Chiramberro’s experience as a daughter of a Basque immigrant, and navigating being Basque in America and being American in Euskal Herria, a bit of an outlier in both places. “I’m interested in how Basque identity is passed on from Basque immigrants to their American-born children. I wanted to explore that theme in my own life. My father is from the Basque Country and my mother’s family is from the Béarn, the French region just east of the Basque Country,” Chiramberro said. “For years I’ve asked myself:



How did I come to feel so strongly Basque and so disconnected from my Béarnais heritage?... This story is me reflecting on my childhood, searching for answers to these questions. I feel they could be useful in helping us to better promote Basque culture and develop Basque identity in the diaspora... Spreading Basque culture is a tool to ensure its survival. The more we disperse Basque culture, the better we will maintain our Basque identities and be understood as a people.”

James Barayasarra Wins Second in the Basque Literary Contest



James Barayasarra has won second prize in the 2018 Basque Literary Contest for his manuscript “Seven Wagons and a Half”, a hilarious and touching tale about growing up as the middle child of Basque immigrants Nemesio and Victorina Barayasarra.

“...[M]y parents did not have a high level of education, they were self-taught, were proud of their Basque heritage and American citizenship. They experienced many hardships, including poverty and discrimination, and yet they survived. It was tough, but I wouldn’t trade any of the events for all the towers in the world. I mean we were poor, discriminated against, but we made it through and I can live to tell about it. I have taught my offspring about my heritage and hope they will appreciate their Basque heritage and sacrifices of immigrants like Nemesio & Victorina Barayasarra,” Barayasarra said when asked about his inspiration for “Seven Wagons and a Half”, “The story is about the attempt to record the contributions of an immigrant family, such as Nemesio & Victorina. Even though they had challenges and struggled at times, they survived the hardest times. It is about appreciation of their hard work and to honor them for their sacrifices.”

Barayasarra has taught at high school level in Idaho and Nevada, as well at SUNY Alfred State and Chesapeake College. He received a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology and Master’s of Education from the College of Idaho, as well as a Master’s in Natural Sciences from the University of Idaho and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Biology from Saint Bonaventure University. Barayasarra has “ taken approximately 40 hours of theatre, creative writing, and art...[and has] 9 unpublished plays, one that has been performed on stage, thank you very much”.

LEKUAK: THE BASQUE PLACES OF BOISE, IDAHO

by Meggan Laxalt Mackey



A new Basque book, in full color!

Published by University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Basque Studies

Lekuak is a cultural journey through Boise, Idaho from a unique perspective: that of the indelible mark Basque immigrants from the Basque Country, and their descendants, have made on the City of Boise. This journey is not only through the city’s landscape, but also through generations past, present, and future. Lekuak means “places” in the Basque language. It traces how Basque places in Boise reflect the transformation of ethnic identity through successive generations. Today, the Basque places of Boise still remarkably represent Old World values that the first generation of immigrants from the Basque Country brought with them. The city’s Basque places reveal at least one common thread: the Basque community or neigh-

LEKUAK

THE BASQUE PLACES OF BOISE, IDAHO



MEGGAN LAXALT MACKEY

borhood, the auzoa. In the Old World, maintenance of the auzoa was highly dependent upon communal work, or auzolan. This principle helped Basque immigrants resettle their lives in new places, or “new soil,” and continues today.

The Basque Museum & Cultural Center hosted a talk and book-signing on December 13th, with over 50 people attending. Some recalled past experiences in the Basque places of Boise and elsewhere, and some were first-time learners about Basque culture. Meggan is teaching a workshop about Lekuak at Boise State University on March 2 and 3. Students can earn one credit for the two-day course; no-credit audits are possible. Stay tuned for more information about on campus talks at Boise State University and the University of Nevada, Reno, as well as a special luncheon talk May 11th at the JT Basque Restaurant in Gardnerville, Nevada.

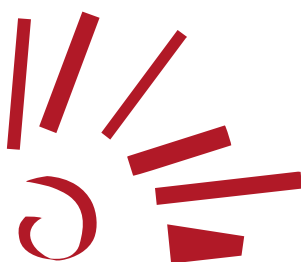
\$26.00 Paperback, full-color. The book was designed by the author.

About the Author and Book Designer

Meggan’s graduate work in Boise State University’s history program focused on Basque places through multiple gen-

erations in Boise, Idaho, which was the foundation for Lekuak. Meggan is a third-generation French Basque, born and raised in Nevada. Her grandparents Dominique and Therese Laxalt immigrated to the U.S. from the Iparralde villages of Tardets (Atharratze Sorholüze, Zuberoa) and Guermiette (Saint-Etienne-de-Baigorry, Nafarroa Beherea). A 30-year resident of Idaho, Meggan has taught for Boise State’s University Foundations and Basque

Studies. She owns Studio M Publications & Design, a creative services studio in Star, Idaho.



News from the CBS Press

CBS Press has had a very eventful 2018, from ranking 87th in the Scholarly Publishers Indicators (compared to our 248th ranking in 2014) to changing the way we that will publish and distribute our books, changes that will carry on to 2019. We are beginning to collaborate with the University of Nevada Press in our marketing and distribution process, allowing us to reach a broader audience with our books. In addition, we are beginning to involve authors in promoting the titles they have written. We have already started doing this with books such as *Lekuak: The Basque Places of Boise* by Meggan Laxalt Mackey and *Zelestina Urza in Outer Space* by David Romtvedt.

Along with the changes in our marketing and distribution, our design and editing process is going through some great changes in 2019 with Cameron Watson becoming chief editor, in charge of translating and proofreading all our manuscripts. Juan San Martin is now lead designer, collaborating with artists to create our books’ covers.

Center for Basque Studies Newsletter

We are also very excited to announce that we will be adding new series to our collections. There will be a Basque music series that will be edited by Josu Okiñena, as well as an extensive series on the Basque language starting in 2019.

We are also adding more books to the University of Nevada, Reno’s repository, making them accessible for free to the public. At the moment, about a third of our books are a part of the repository, but by the end of 2019, we will have half of our books available for free online.

We hope that all these changes will help us reach a greater audience and fulfill our mission to spread Basque culture and history. Here’s to a great 2019!

Cameron Watson

As senior editor at the CBS press, it is my task to take part in various projects through, where applicable, translating, copyediting, and/or proofreading the books published. In my long association with the Center I have been witness to the evolution of its book production, within which I would highlight the increasing variety of subject matters, formats, and origins of the manuscripts we receive: specifically, they may concern the Basque homeland or diaspora communities, they may be submitted by one person or multiple authors, they can be works aimed at an academic audience or intended more for the general public—including works for children and young adult readers—and the original texts could be in English, Basque, Spanish, French, or even German, or a combination of any of these. The principal challenge for those of us at the press is to assess and collate this diverse information, subject matters, and provenance before preparing the various manuscripts to be transformed into book form. More specifically, as regards translation there are invariably issues of cross-cultural nuance to overcome.

Copyediting, meanwhile, can often seem more like detective work, hunting down and checking (sometimes obscure) references. And finally, good proofreaders have the eyes of a hawk in their goal to leave no errors or typos in the finished product. The work is demanding and yes, sometimes exasperating, but the recompense is seeing a finished book: a thing of beauty in form and exercise for the mind in content.



From the Basque Library

Mónica Buxeda Mas obtained a degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of the Basque Country. After that, she received a Master's Degree in Literary Studies at Complutense University of Madrid. In 2017, her master's degree final project, entitled *Exile and Identity Search of the works of María Luisa Elío and Luis Elío*, was published. She currently lives in Reno thanks to the Global Training scholarship offered through the Basque Government and the University of the Basque Country, giving her the opportunity to complete her international experience by working at the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies and the Jon Bilbao Basque Library.

What is going to be your work at the Jon Bilbao Basque Library?

I am in the Jon Bilbao Basque Library learning from the Basque Librarian, Iñaki Arrieta. I help him and our students take care of the collections and, at the same time, describe and contextualize historical documents that are about to be catalogued. I also help library users, including the international students that are visiting us.

What convinced you to come to Reno?

First of all, the historical and cultural heritage that the city has in terms of Basque exile in America. In addition, anthropologists like Joseba Zulaika, William Douglass or Sandy Ott, were pillars in our academic formation and their great investigations had their roots here. To be honest, coming here has always been my dream. Being sur-

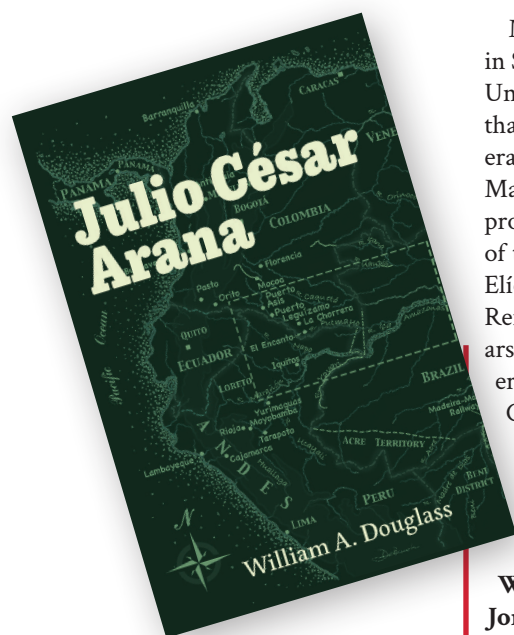
rounded by such good anthropologists and also by books and documents (catalogued and not yet catalogued) about exile is amazing. Secondly, being in a university with the most extensive collection of materials about Basque exiles in the world, outside the Basque Country, is an inspiration for anyone interested in learning more about Basque identity and exile. On a personal level, the adventure of learning about the American culture, new places, new experiences and new people has always been exciting for me. At the end of the day, knowing the "other" also gives you information about who you are, and in that cultural shock you discover many people but also you get to know yourself much better. I signed up for the scholarship, and I was lucky to be able to come here.

What plans do you have in mind?

In the short term I want to absorb everything that this scholarship offers to me and challenge myself in many ways, both personal and academic. This experience will never be repeated, and I want to be open to all available opportunities. It is true that I might entertain the possibility of doing a Ph.D., since research is something that has always attracted me. I will make a decision in the coming months.

Are you coming back?

I would love to. It is a unique place and it would be a good thing to be able to meet again the friends I have made here, or even to return for academic reasons if I pursue a doctorate. But no matter how many plans I might make, life always surprises me. I have learned to enjoy the moment and appreciate uncertainty, opening myself to a possible serendipity.



William Douglass

The Center has just published the book *Arana* by William Douglass. The back cover reproduced below details the work's main subject, but the author adds in his text that the book serves as a cautionary tale for both himself and others like him who believe that we can reconstruct Basque networks by pursuing Basque surnames throughout the historical records. Peruvian-born Julio César Arana was descended from Basque ancestors, married to a Basque-surnamed woman, in partnership with her brothers, as well as Colombian persons of Basque descent. He even resided briefly in Biarritz. Yet there is absolutely no concrete evidence that he considered himself to be Basque and/or operated in terms of that identity. At the same time, the book reads like a detective story, since it outlines one of the major international scandals of the early twentieth century. Enjoy!





Basque Writing Contest

Open to all writing in English **that has not been nor is in the process of being published elsewhere** and has as its subject the Basques, Basque culture, the life of the Basques around the world, or other Basque-related topics.

Entries **open on February 1, 2019 at 12:00 a.m. PST.**

Entries **close on September 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. PST.**

Winners will be announced in November 2019.

PRIZES

1st Prize:

\$500 Center for Basque Studies Press gift certificate and publication consideration

2nd Prize:

\$150 Center for Basque Studies Press gift certificate and publication consideration

3rd Prize:

Basque Literature and Classics gift pack and publication consideration

GENERAL RULES

1. Submissions must be original and unpublished manuscripts
2. Submissions must be in Microsoft Word or printed on hard copy and more than 10,000 words and less than 100,000 words
3. Submissions should be clearly identified and accompanied by a cover letter (or email) that includes the entrant's name and contact information. No contact information should be included on the actual submission.
4. Entries will not be returned. Please only submit copies.
5. Submissions can be in any genre, including but not limited to: literary fiction, short story collections, creative nonfiction, memoir, and children's literature.

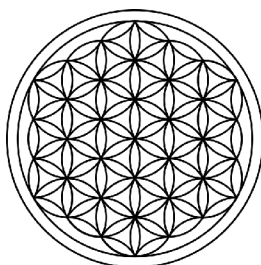
Submit via mail to:

Center for Basque Studies
University of Nevada, Reno / MS 2322
1664 N. Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89557-2322 or via email to:
basquestudies@gmail.com

A contest held in conjunction with the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies and the Boise State University Basque Studies Program.



University of Nevada, Reno



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

Our Thanks to a Unique Advisory Board

Our Advisory Board is one of the reasons why the Center is regarded as a special program in the College of Liberal Arts. Since its founding in 2001, the Board has created and sustained a major quasi-endowment fund that contributes greatly to the ongoing success of the CBS Press, to faculty research and to their international recognition as scholars through conferences, lectures, and publications. Board members have also long provided greatly appreciated guidance to the CBS faculty and staff on key issues relating to the preservation and strategic development of the CBS as we assess our current strengths and weaknesses and look to the future of a Center that is now in its fifty-second year.

The Board's nineteen members meet annually in the Spring to renew ties with UNR's President, Provost, and our Dean and to discuss the Center's most pressing priorities with CBS faculty and staff. We will always have immense gratitude for the pioneering work and support of our "founding" Chair and Vice Chair, John Echeverria and Bill Douglass and their successors, Michonne Ascuaga and Steve Trounday. When Michonne stepped down after many years of service, Steve gamely agreed to serve as Chair, and Dale Erquiaga became Vice-Chair. We thank them, too, for their leadership and dedication to the Board and Center. For several years now, our first priority has been to secure recurrent funding for a classified position lost in the economic crisis of 2008. That position has long been key to the operation of the CBS Press. During the past three years Board members and faculty have worked hard not only to develop new strategies for fund-raising but also to increase public awareness of the Center and its publications at events across the United States.

The professional expertise of our Board members deserves special recognition. To cite just one recent example, Board members Pete Ernaut, Dale Erquiaga, Justice Ron Parraguirre, and Michon Martin all contributed to the success of Governor Sandoval's trade mission to the Basque Country last summer. As highly accomplished professionals, Board members ask tough questions

(and we want them to do so!) about financial and "friend-raising" strategies, our visibility in the media and on the internet, our opportunities to enlarge the "family" of CBS supporters when we organize cultural events open to the public, among other key issues. At present, several local Board members are actively involved in the organization of two important CBS conferences and related cultural and fund-raising events: a conference on March 13th-14th that will be centered around Frank Bergon, a critically acclaimed author whose close ties to his own Basque heritage emerge through the voices of Basque characters in his novels about the American West; and a series of events featuring former President of the Basque Country (1999-2009), Juan Jose Ibarretxe, including his lecture (8:00-10:00am on Wednesday April 3rd) on "The Basque Experience: Constructing Sustainable Human Development" for Ty Cobb's National Security Forum of Nevada (www.nationalsecurityforum.org) at the Sand's Hotel & Casino in downtown Reno. We expect about 200 people to attend. Board members have also worked diligently with us to acquire and to relocate the statue of the shepherd, commissioned by John Ascuaga, on the UNR campus.

We look forward to completing this project soon. In addition to their contributions of time and professional expertise, Board members also strive to achieve 100% annual giving and to ensure the future well-being of the Center and its Press. We are extremely grateful to Board members not only for their financial support, but also for their deep dedication to their own Basque heritage—a driving force that we celebrate together, most notably when we gather together to enjoy Basque-style commensality at Louis' Basque Corner on the evening prior to our annual meeting. UNR President Marc Johnson, Provost Kevin Carman, and Dean Debra Modelmog will all join us at Louis' this year; and, thanks to longtime Board member Mike Bidart, plans are afoot to add Basque music and singing to the evening's celebration of being Basque in America.

#Accessing Center for Basque Studies' books through ScholarWorks

When the University of Nevada, Reno started working on the development of its institutional publications repository, the CBS identified this opportunity as a new way to share its books with anyone interested in Basque Culture, History, and Politics. Working along the Basque Library, the CBS was able to be one of the first academic departments to collaborate with ScholarWorks (as the institutional repository is named) for its public opening in 2016.

CBS publishing provides access to 22 books on Basque Studies through ScholarWorks, including works from the Diaspora and Migrations, Conference Papers and Classics series.

It is possible to browse these series or, from the homepage for the CBS <https://scholarworks.unr.edu/handle/11714/111> access the description of each of the books. This description provides detailed information about the work, including an abstract,

to facilitate the discoverability of the Basque books, both inside ScholarWorks and searching with Google.

This last point is especially important since it increases access to these publications for anyone interested in Basque topics from anywhere in the world. CBS books available in ScholarWorks have been downloaded mostly from the US and Europe, but also from Indonesia, Australia, and South Korea, among others.

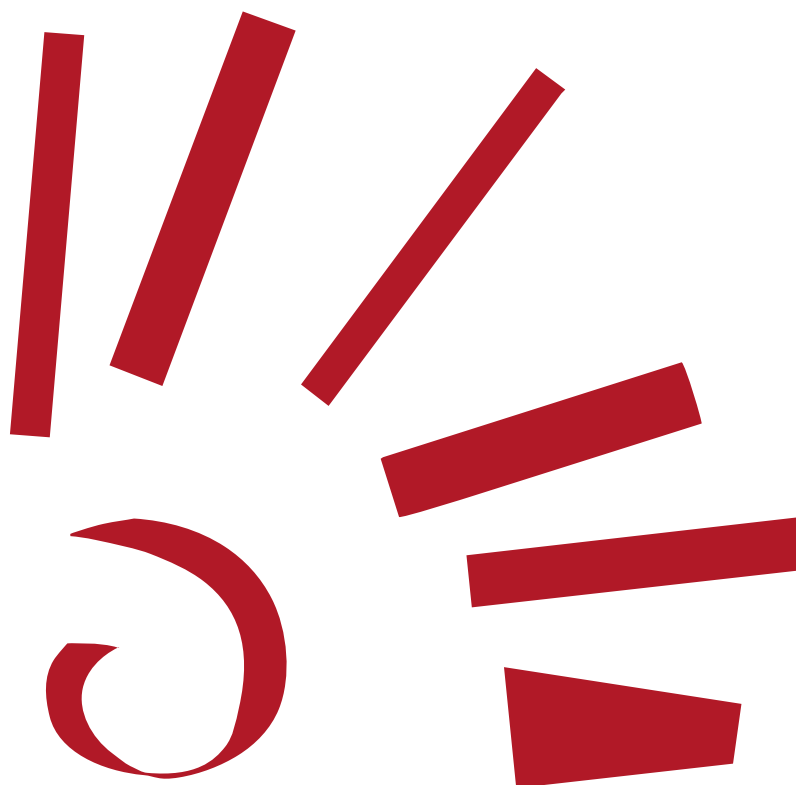
During the this Spring semester, the CBS will be working on uploading a new set of 25 books to ScholarWorks, more than doubling the number of Basque publications in the institutional repository. These books include works by William A. Douglass, Xabier Irujo, and Joseba Zulaika, exploring topics like anthropology, Basque explorers in the Pacific Ocean, self-government, and the exile during the 20th century. The whole Basque Textbooks Series will also be uploaded, making this essential collection available to a greater public.



University of Nevada, Reno
Center for Basque Studies
University of Nevada, Reno / 2322
Reno, Nevada 89557-2322
USA
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reno, Nevada
Permit No. 26

Visit our website at **www.basque.unr.edu**



The William A. Douglass
**Center for
Basque
Studies**